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A taste of Italy in Haliburton
Farmers' Market finds on page 4

Stories of the Sculptures
A new column on page 7

Behind the scenes
Highlands Summer Festival ready to raise the curtain on page 14

The Marshall family from Milton watched over the fishing derby before making their way up to the Cultural Centre on a past Canada Day. /FILE

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ZED: *Song*

I'm Zed. Find me at the end of the alphabet, lol. I do get teased, but I'm chuffed too. I stand out. Both my moms chose that name so I'd always be something special to look forward to. I enjoy looking forward. I finish chapters and then start new ones. Actually, I don't like when certain books, songs or movies end. I want them to last forever, or to automatically reboot, A to Z.

My moms' names both start with A! I thought mine might too, since parents sometimes do funny things with naming their kids. I know a guy whose brothers' names all start with J. I wouldn't do that. My future children will have different initials. It could get confusing otherwise.

One thing I'm proud of, besides being 'Zed' (how Canadians pronounce Z), is that I carry some Indigenous heritage. It makes me feel more Canadian, and very happy to say so. I have other cultures in my ancestry too. Europe. Asia. That also helps me feel connected to everyone.

It's September. We've just started 'Show and Tell' in Miss Fields' class. It might sound a bit awkward and babyish, but we still actually like showing and telling stuff about ourselves. First thing Monday morning, one name is pulled from the classroom 'democracy bag', and that kid is in charge of many things. This week it's me. I get to go first in Show and Tell, line up the class, dismiss them, write homework and the date (in French) onto the whiteboard, water plants, empty pencil sharpeners, dump recycling … junk like that.

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

Today I'm showing off my new blue acoustic-electric guitar. I earned part of it through marketing our own honey, plus our amazing rosemary-mint soap. Both herbs grow like crazy along the sunny side of the house. Bees just love being there, and hang out before they buzz off to their hives at the far edge of the sunflower field. My one and only song so far is about those bees, and how they seem to prefer the same colour flowers I do: yellow and blue.

We add sunflower seeds to everything. Bread, stir-fries, roasted vegetables, salads, granola, muffins. I'm as handy in the kitchen as my moms. I like to be near them, so I practice my guitar close by if they're prepping the food. I'm starting to add 'finger-style' to my tunes, and minor chords to match my lyrics about 'Turtle Island'. I love when astronauts say how precious Earth looks from outer space. My chorus might be about that. Or maybe the magic of first snowflakes.

My next new 'chapter' will be about earning enough to buy an amp. I have my eye on a tiny portable one in the window of the main street music store. I'm growing out my hair after buzz-cutting it all winter. These days, I want to look more like a Grade 5 singer-songwriter!

Green is made from yellow, blue
Earth is made from me and you

Author's note: Here's the latest in our alphabetical series, Dickens-style, introducing a fictional Central Ontario class-room which recognizes student individuality, diversity, similarity, and wide-open growing on the verge of their futures. It's also our effort to help celebrate devoted teachers everywhere. We invite all ages, but especially kids, to enjoy reading these chapters out loud. ROOM 10 will soon be available in picture book format. A similar series will follow this one. Stay tuned!

Community Events

"At The Feeder" Painting and Photography Exhibition - Meet the Artist Reception
When: June 27, noon to 3 p.m.
Where: The Space art gallery at 173 B Highland St underneath Redmans records
Janis Parker Photography. Les Pomeroy Painting. Wine, cheese, munchies and appies! Open for viewing Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10-5 until July 15 call for private curator tour. 705-457-2713. @thespace_hali

Canada Day Car Show
When: July 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Water Street, Minden, Rain or Shine.

Classic Vehicle Cruise Night
When: July 2, 5:30 p.m. to Dusk
Where: Kawartha Dairy, Minden
Weather Permitting. Open to owners of Classic Automobiles and the people who love them.

Haliburton Lions' Community Garage Sale for Dog Guide Fundraiser
When: Saturday, July 4, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: A.J. LaRue arena parking lot
Books Sale, Yard Sale, Plant Sale. Remember to bring your Pop Tabs for puppies. Website: haliburtonlions.com

Learn How to do "Winter Sowing" of Seeds
When: July 7, 7 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Centre, 55 Park St., Minden
Join the Minden & District Horticultural Society to learn how to do "Winter Sowing" of seeds from guest speaker Sylvia Strobl, followed by the monthly society meeting. New members welcome!

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

Haliburton Highlands Real Estate
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For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

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Italian comfort food homemade in Hali!

DEAR READER,
Boy, do I love super tasty homemade Italian food. In fact, I could easily see myself eating my way through Italy, not feeling the slightest bit guilty about coming home wearing a few extra pounds. If you've read any of my previous Foodie in the Hoodie columns, you know that I am a self-proclaimed foodie and that it takes a lot to get my tastebuds excited. But, when they do get excited, I love sharing my excitement with you. And I will, several paragraphs down, because there's a "new kid in town" who I think you should know about.

JERELYN CRADEN
Foodie in the Hoodie

First, let's look at what comfort food is, then we'll add some spice to it.

Comfort food refers to dishes that invoke a sense of emotional well-being, security, and, yes, even being cared for. Think back to your childhood and the dishes and treats that your mom or nanna or auntie made. If you were lucky, as I was, you were served veggies that you actually enjoyed eating. No tantrums or stubborn protests. Spinach with a cream sauce or butter, a touch of salt and maybe a hint of garlic. Squash with butter and cinnamon. That special "something" that was carefully added that just made it taste special, and in turn, gave you a feeling of comfort and caring.

It could have been the way your mom or dad made a grilled cheese sandwich or BLT. Or a sliced tomato straight from the garden on rye or sour dough with mayonnaise, a touch of salt and maybe a sprig of fresh dill.

Maybe it was a peanut butter sandwich packed in your lunch with an apple or chips. A reminder that someone took the time to put that together for you. That alone gave you a sense of home and comfort.

Culturally, of course, treats will be unique to your background and upbringing. And times spent in the kitchen watching whoever it was in your family cook up the basics to special dishes.

Historically. The term comfort food can be traced back to … wait for it … 1615. That's right, where in the beginning of the second part of Don Quixote, at the beginning of chapter one, Quixote's niece and her nurse are told to pamper him, "to give him things to eat which are comforting and appropriate for the heart and the brain ..." Others trace it back to 1966, when the Palm Beach Post used it in a story: "Adults, when under severe emotional stress, turn to what could be called 'comfort food' - food associated with the security of childhood, like mother's poached egg or famous chicken soup."

In the 1970s, the most popular comfort food was various potato dishes and chicken soup, but even at the time, the definition varied from person to person. During the next decades, the nature of comfort food changed, shifting from savoury dishes to sweet ones, while comfort food themed cookbooks started to spread and restaurants started to offer items labelled as such, when originally the term was used for food items consumed only at home. Worldwide diet trends that emerged in the 1990s, like the low fat or the low-carb diet, were unable to end the cravings for comfort food. And when COVID hit in 2020 it further strengthened our need for comfort food that evokes nostalgia and the feeling of belonging.

Now, when I think of Italian comfort food, I immediately think of meatballs and spaghetti, pasta and lasagna. And, I am not naïve in believing that every Italian person is going to be a great cook. Same for any nationality. So, when I do taste a meatball that is juicy and flavourful, pasta that makes my shoulders relax and my inner smile glow, and lasagna that has a wow factor that I look forward to repeating … I am a very happy and appreciative camper.

Now, I am happy to add that just this week I tasted a veggie lasagna that was so delicious that I didn't miss it being meatless for a nano-second. Hearty and rich with cheese, tasty sauce, and veggies, including sweet peas, I will enthusiastically buy it again. Same goes for her meatballs, chicken parm and penne.

Who am I referring to? The new kid on the block at Tuesday's Farmers' Market in Haliburton – Mama Nancy's Italian Kitchen. "Authentic Italian made with love in small batches." Nancy Meranta and her husband, Mike, her right-hand man who helps with prep, and heavy-lifting, have been cottagers in Hali since 2012, and full-time residents for the past two years. They will be back at the market toward the end of July through August.

In the meantime, you can check out their menu items on Facebook at: Mama Nancy's Italian Kitchen. Also, you can order online and enjoy free delivery within 30 km of the village.

It does my heart (and my tummy) good to see new food makers join Hali's talent pool of wonderful local chefs. Mangiamo!

Municipality of Highlands East — Yours to Explore — highlandseast.ca

Events and Activities

Celebrate Canada Day Wednesday, July 1
Celebrate Canada Day by exploring the communities of Highlands East. Start the day with breakfast at the Cardiff Legion at 9am. At 11:30am there will be a flag raising ceremony in Wilberforce at the Red Cross Outpost followed by lunch and music. Noon to 3pm large games at the Curling Club, with music by Phil O'Reilly. In Highland Grove from noon to 3pm take in children's crafts, local entertainment, horseshoes, and BBQ. Kidd Schoolhouse Museum will be open. In Gooderham starting at 4:00pm Children's activities, BBQ, cake, and the Ragged Company will take to the stage at 7 pm. The grand finale fireworks start about 10pm.

Giant Penny Raffle Saturday, July 18
Come to the Wilberforce arena where over 150 prizes will be drawn. Kids activities, and food. Doors open from 1pm to 3pm for early viewing. The main event starts at 5:30pm with draws starting at 8pm. Proceeds support the Wilberforce Heritage Guild, Wilberforce Fair and local FUNraising initiatives.

Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost Historic House Events
Wednesday, July 15, Outpost Scrabble 10:30 am Scrabble with extra points for words associated with the Outpost and its history.

Wilberforce Fair –August 7 & 8
Great fun for the whole family! Enter the competitions in advance or just come for the day. Get all the details WilberforceFair.com.

Visitor Information Centre Open
Our Visitor Information Centre at 2786 Essonville Line in Wilberforce, at the Curling Club, is open Thursday to Monday 10 am to 4 pm, (closed Tuesday and Wednesday). We offer information on mineral collecting, directions, geocaching information and GPS rentals, trails, events, and other general area information. Free Wi-Fi is also available.

Trails
Whether you like to walk or run, ride a bike, a horse or an ATV, one of Highlands East's trails is sure to please. Maps and descriptions can be found on our website.

Swimming Lessons and Pool Memberships now available
Registration is now open for Swimming Lessons at the Cardiff Pool. 2026 Pool Memberships are also now available for purchase.
Sign up on our website: HighlandsEast.ca

Geocaching
Geocaching is a family friendly outdoor game. It's often referred to as "treasure hunting with a high tech twist" because you use the geocaching.com website and either a GPS device or a smartphone. GPS Rentals are available from the Visitor Information Centre and come preloaded so you can start playing right away.

Mineral Collecting
Mineral collecting is a fun outdoor activity. Adults and kids alike will delight in the chance to dig for buried treasure and bring home some colourful gems of your very own! Get a Permission to Collect form (free) from our website highlandseast.ca.

For more details, more events, and to submit an event visit our website at
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Oar lore

I'VE HEARD it said that a set of oars is like bear spray, in that they are good within reach, but you never want to have to use them. To be clear, I heard it said by me, this morning, right after I bought a new set of oars.

No one is happy about buying a new set of oars.

Oars, after all, are an ever-present reminder that one day your outboard motor will quit and everyone in the boat will suddenly clamour to tell you stories about their aching sciatica.

STEVE GALEA

Beyond 35

Despite all this, there are strange folks out there who look forward to rowing. According to the rowboat manufacturer's association, some people even consider it to be fun.

I have never shared a boat with a person like this, but with the price of gas these days, I sure would like to.

Let me be clear though. You'll never convince me that rowing is anything close to being enjoyable. I mean, if rowing is so much fun, why did they have to chain all the rowers to the benches of the old Roman galleys? Also, why is the rowing machine the least favourite exercise accessory ever?

It's not like I haven't given rowing a fair chance. I have rowed many times over the years. Admittedly, this is mostly because I am horrible at remembering to check how much gas I have in my outboard's fuel tank.

But there were other times too.

For instance, I once rowed my uncle's boat the entire length of a long and blustery lake after a frigid October duck hunt. For more than an hour, I put my back into the oars and rowed against the wind and whitecaps, while he diagnosed his outboard to find out why it wasn't working. When we finally got within 10 yards of the dock, he laughed and said, "What to hear something funny? I forgot to plug in the gas line."

He has been my least favourite uncle ever since.

Right now, the pro-oar faction is probably saying that I should not complain about oars. They will tell you that oars will get you to shore when all else fails. To which I answer, so will a good wind, if you don't mind crashing into the treacherous shoreline you didn't want to go to. Which is OK, because I would rather be shipwrecked for a few months than spend 20 minutes rowing.

Heck, if I wanted to row for any length of time, I'd go to a gym and hire a sadistic personal trainer. Or buy a "gently used" outboard motor on-line.

The fortunate part is you have other uses for oars. For instance, if a bear is swimming to your boat, you can show it the oars and say, "My motor won't start. How are you rowing?"

I'm guessing this will work better than bear spray.

The good news is, if you keep your outboard motor in good condition, it is quite conceivable that you will never have to row your boat again. All you need to do is feed it premium gas, store it properly every winter, send it for maintenance every year or two, and not abuse it.

Most importantly, check how much gas you have in your motor's fuel tank.

Trust me.

Legion Events

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Wednesday, June 24 - 2 p.m. Darts, $5/player, 5 to 6:30 p.m. Quick supper, $10, 6:30 p.m. Open Crib
Thursday June 25 - 10 a.m. Social Rec, 7 p.m. Horseshoes - $5/player
Friday, June 26 - noon, Seniors Lunch $20, 5 to 8 p.m. Fish & Chips – 1pc $15, 2pc $20
Saturday, June 27 - 3 p.m. Meat Draw - $1 tickets, 8 p.m. Karaoke
Monday June 29 - 7 p.m. Darts $5/player
Tuesday, June 30 1 p.m. Exercise Club
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid Euchre 1 p.m., Card night 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Mixed Darts, 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Bingo- Doors open at 5 p.m., play at 6:45 p.m.
Saturday: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw 5 p.m.
2nd Sunday of the month. Ladies Auxiliary - 11 a.m.
3rd Thursday of the month 7 p.m. executive meeting. 7:30 p.m. general meeting (members only)
Last Sunday of the month - All you can eat breakfast
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices. Email: 441RCL@gmail.com. Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105.

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Planning a function, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636

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Karen London, Production Co-ordinator
Stacey Potalivo, Production

146 Highland St., Box 360, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Phone: 705 457-1037

Website: www.haliburtonecho.ca
Box 97, Minden K0M 2K0
Phone: 705 286-1288
Website: www.mindentimes.ca

Send your letters to the editor to emily@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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Flying solo

I'VE SPENT the vast majority of my life in the company of others.

And this makes me feel incredibly blessed. I've been surrounded by friends and family who choose me, and that certainly makes me one of the lucky ones.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

But as I go through life now navigating my 30s, I realize that I have spent very little time alone.

This becomes blindingly apparent during the few times in which I am alone. It doesn't happen often, in my life as a mom with young kids.

But the second I end up solo, I immediately try to fill the void with items that distract. My phone gets picked up; fingers quick to scroll and seem less siloed. One goal in mind: look less alone.

When did the concept of being alone present as something negative? Was it romance stories? Did Bridget Jones convince us all that we are undesirable? Or are there different parts of society that are built for life in couples? Tables for two, family discounts, songs that pine about long lost love.

Being surrounded by people who charge your emotional battery is one of life's greatest gifts.

But being able to find joy in being alone is a life skill that is unmatched.

And not just moments to yourself where you grab your phone and send off an email or mindlessly scroll.

I mean *really* be by yourself. Turn off your distractions, listen to your thoughts, and don't run away from the dark corners of your mind.

Many are scared to sit in that place. Too much time alone can introduce people to who they really are. And honestly, sometimes that's terrifying.

We spend so much time being someone for others. We show up to work, we are parents, friends, sons and daughters and colleagues and taxpayers.

We wear many hats, all of which provide shade to others, presence to the inner cycles and circles we spin in.

But when we forget about those roles and look back at who we are, I bet many would not know. When we strip the layers we've added on for our entire lives to present to the public, which version of ourselves remains?

It can be lonely, being ourselves. A version we may not know and may not care to understand. But when we take the time to listen, to learn, to love that siloed individual, we can become better versions for all those who need us.

So here is my reminder to take the solo dates. Go out for lunch on your own, take a drive by yourself. Table for one, ticket for one, tea for one.

Take the time to be solo, and embrace who you really are. Because while we share overlaps with the many people in our circles, no one has been along for the ride from the beginning, except you. You've seen every version, felt every feeling, explored every corner.

And while it may seem scary to spend time with yourself, there's no one who deserves it more.

Top 10 reasons why your outboard won't start

THIS IS the time of year when every boat owner tries to start his or her outboard. Some are lucky enough to hear them start and purr like a kitten. Others get to hear something that sounds more akin to an Aztec death rattle before it quits.

With that in mind, here are the top 10 reasons why your outboard won't start.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. You told everyone it starts first pull.
2. You're in a hurry.
3. You did not provide an acceptable sacrifice to the motor gods.
4. Your outboard would love to see you pick up the oars and work for a change.
5. Fish are rising everywhere around you.
6. A direct result of you plugging in an empty gas tank.
7. Not saying you flooded the motor, but if it gets any worse animals will start arriving two by two.
8. Might have something to do with those extra pieces you had after you put it back together.
9. Propeller end down! Propeller end down!
10. Not to belabour the point, but you told everyone it starts first pull!

Fences

Rivulets of light seeping through layers of cloud,
warming Air rinsed by Rain, soaking the green skin of a leaf,
peeping through a slit between two pieces of wooden fence, separating the leaf from the rest of its branch,
tethered to its tree, growing in a garden that the leaf will never see, peering down
onto a strip of grass instead,
sprawling along the side of the road, surrounded by a forest of weeds, the sunny faces of dandelions
smiling up at the lone leaf, whose stem clings to a twig that slipped its way through the narrow space
between the slats of wood, tendrils of green curling through other spaces, belonging to bushes
blossoming on the other side, my fingers weaving through the tendrils,
pausing at the fence to greet the spear of leaf, Good Morning, peering up at the crown of the young tree,
growing on the other side of the fence, inhaling the fragrance of blossoms that I can't see,
mingling with the smell of earth, weeds grazing my calves, growing along the side of the road,
a pair of grandmother dandelions standing side by side, matching in height and hairdo,
fingers of breeze ruffling the fluff of their perfectly coiffed heads, that hover over the younger dandelions,
springing from the strip of grass that doesn't belong to anyone, unlike the garden growing on the other side
of the fence, where dandelion heads are shredded by a lawnmower prowling past,
slicing through the silence of morning, muffling the chirps of birds smearing Air with their song,
I rumple the lone spear of leaf, So Long, separated from the rest of its tree by the barrier of this fence,
the other leaves free to flutter on their branches, feeling the wings of butterflies and birds brush their flesh
as they pause to rest or build nests, I meander along the side of the road,
passing other fences barricading yards
and gardens from prying eyes like mine, glimpsing other leaves and tendrils curling through the spaces
between
slats of wood, broken bits of branches crumpled among the weeds, in the aftermath of the storm,
clusters of dandelions, their faces beaming like tiny suns, springing from patches of grass,
the grandmother dandelions, standing among them, silver-haired and erect,
their roots burrowing deep beneath the earth, the seeds of weeds planting themselves in yards and gardens,
fences unable to keep them from spreading, as the drone of more lawnmowers scrapes my ears,
shredding Air and massacring the chirps of birds that flit back and forth over fences,
not caring whether they're serenading a manicured lawn or weeds, growing wild and free,
the branches of trees arching over the road, the space between them swelling with leaves,
painting Air in shades of green, shimmering in the morning light.

Sylvie Kalenda

Stories of the sculptures

BRODY BOLGER

County Life Contributor

/photos submitted

Hello everyone, my name is Brody Bolger. I am 19 and have lived in Haliburton all my life, and this summer I have the privilege of being the "Sculpture Forest Ambassador," which is just a glorified way to say I help the Sculpture Forest in any way I can. When I was approached with the idea of creating a weekly column for *County Life*, I jumped at the opportunity! I am so very grateful to everyone for letting me wax poetic about the Sculpture Forest.

This column will be a weekly peek into the past, present, and future of what the Sculpture Forest is and can become. I will serve as your cicerone through these many interesting tails. The 2026 Downtown Haliburton Sculpture Exhibit is up! We have eight beautiful sculptures made from all different types of materials, from metal to glass, with each one of these sculptures having its own individuality. These one-of-a-kind pieces all mean so much to each artist.

Jungle Ling, who has over 40 years of experience, made a piece, "The Squatter," from parts coming from the city dump, with the inspiration partially coming from a friend who passed away and also from how some people could see this position as someone less affluent than us. Because of that, it allows us to confront a part of ourselves that we often try to avoid: our entitlement. Something to note about the Downtown Haliburton Sculpture Exhibit is that some sculptures graduate from downtown and get to be a part of the Sculpture Forest. In 2024, there was a sculpture called "Happy Hippo" sitting in front of Redmans Records, a sculpture that depicts just that: a small, smiling hippo. This piece of art goes much further than that; the Happy Hippo's origins lie 13,000 kilometers away in the African country of Zimbabwe. You see, the Happy Hippo is made of a beautiful shining black stone called "Spring Stone." Spring Stone can be found in mines within the Mvurwi and Tengenenge regions of Zimbabwe. The artist Nyasha Mabika joined a group of other artists and founded an arts co-operative, the Chitungwiza Arts Centre, where he remained an active member until 2016. Then ZimArt started to represent Nyasha in Canada in 2017 and exhibited the Happy Hippo at the outdoor ZimArt Rice Lake Gallery, just outside of Peterborough. When the owner, Fran Fearnley, decided to retire in the fall of 2023, she offered to donate a sculpture, of their choice, to the Sculpture Forest. They selected the Happy Hippo and decided to have it on display as part of the downtown exhibition in 2024, before moving it to his forever home. The Happy Hippo now sits calmly, smiling near the lakeshore in the Sculpture Forest. Every single sculpture has a story to tell and new memories to create. I encourage everyone to go to the Sculpture Forest and rub Happy's head; you won't be the first, but it should be comforting to know you will never be the last.

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Glimpses of the past

Bay View Hotel Tennis Court C. 1930

We do not know the date of manufacture of the post card from which this image was derived – but can deduce that it was no later than the early 1930s.

The sepia scene shows a grass tennis court that was located on the flat area where Cabins # 12 and # 13, as well as the driveway, and kids playground are now located.

RUSS WUNKER
Glimpses of the Past

Also evident is the tank at the top of a wooden tower, that provided gravity fed water to the hotel. A flag flies from a pole in front of the Lodge building, and the roof of the original farm house is visible adjacent to the hotel. Within a few years, it would be moved to its current location, and the Winter House (store/office) would be constructed between it, and the lodge.

The two sections of the lodge are clearly differentiated on both the roof, and siding. These are believed to date to a period between 1914, and 1920, with the right section being built several years after the oneon the left.

The interim "kitchen" at the rear of the building appears to be in two parts, and

would continue to evolve in the coming decades. After the sale of the property to the Wunker family in 1938, the tennis court was moved to the right of the location in this picture and constructed out ofrolled crushed limestone chips and dust.

2026 summer series of History Sessions at the Miners' Bay Church

Over the past several years, I have conducted Wednesday night history sessions at the Miners' Bay Church, in an attempt to draw attention to the importance of values, personalities, and events that have shaped our local, and national history.

This year, I am moving in a slightly different direction. I have been encouraged over the past few months to start recording some of the events of my life which have been either unusual or significant. Consequently, this summer's series will attempt to integrate several themes.

We will continue to look at the importance of local history, as well as examine various events and time periods from the past. When appropriate, to provide context and personal experience, my own involvement will be included. Each session will have a general theme, which may, or may not, be specifically connected to Miners' Bay and Gull Lake.

All sessions will also include a selection of stories and vignettes of the local area which have not been presented in the past. Each week will be a stand-alone presentation. The air conditioning will be on, and complimentary cold drinks provided. Sessions are from 8 to 9 p.m., at the Miners' Bay Church, at the foot of the Rock Cut, at the corner of Highway 35, and Miners' Bay Road. All are welcome!

June 24
Why History Is Important
July 1
The Miners' Bay Silver Mine Story
July 8
A Visit To The Miners' Bay Store C. 1960
July 15
Early Tourism on Gull Lake before 1940
July 22
Politicians, Old Man Ontario, and the Chief
July 28
A 1950'S Gull Lake Guest Experience
Aug. 5
Canadian/American Relations up to 1840
Aug. 12
Canadian/American Relations 1840 – 1900
Aug. 19
Canadian/American Relations Since 1900
Aug. 26
Travels to Poland
Sept. 2
Travels to Africa

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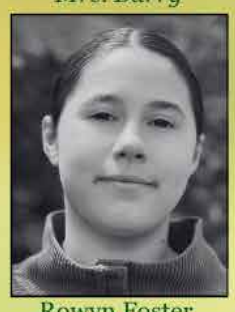
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Naturally Yours

Snags stand tall on this wetland paddle

The inviting start to the Pauper Creek paddle. / RICK WHITTEKER submitted

The richness of Pauper Creek

RICK WHITTEKER
Naturally Yours

I HAVE been talking to wildlife more than usual this spring. Beyond my cheery "good morning" to the resident house wren in my backyard, I have also had brief, one-way chats with dragonflies and fly catching phoebes, thanking them for their efforts and encouraging them to do better. This "epic" spring of biting insects has me thinking twice about spending time outdoors, however, ignoring this nagging doubt, I headed off to an outdoor destination known by few but liked by all those in the know.

A destination also known to local anglers, Pauper Creek to Wolfden and String Lakes is a wonderful mix of creek, wetland and lake paddling, offering a rich biotic and visual experience. Appearing as a razor thin blue line on topographic maps, Pauper Creek is deep and wide, providing a three-season paddle destination that is both remote and accessible.

The creek access is off an unmarked road called Hindon Anson Access Road in Minden Hills. Heading west from Carnarvon, the access road is on the south side of Hwy 118, just past Brady Lake, about 15 kms from the intersection of 118 and 35. A well maintained, narrow gravel road, your destination is a bridge over Pauper Creek, about 2.5 km from Hwy 118. There is plenty of parking here and the short, rocky trail to the creek ends at a cute little dock – a very convenient launching spot for paddlers.

This paddle is visually dynamic. The creek is wide, bordered by low lying leatherleaf shrubs giving paddlers sweeping sightlines across the wetland. The uniformed nature of the shrubbery is broken up by several young, delicate-looking tamarack trees that have found enough nutrients to grow. A few small white pines have also taken hold, basking in the competition-free sunlight.

Bleached, dead standing trees or snags stand out in this lush, green environment – their demise is likely from drowning in this beaver dam-created habitat. These snags provide nesting sites and perches for flycatchers such as tree swallows and eastern kingbirds – both were enjoying the spring bounty of flying insects! I was escorted along the way by several pairs of red winged blackbirds, the males flashed their vibrant red and yellow wing epaulets like airport flagbearers, waving me away from their nesting territory.

Hearing a nearby green frog, its baritone call stands in contrast to the high-pitched birdsong around me. Sounding like the twang of a loose banjo string or comparable to the iconic "Doh" exclamation of an animated Homer Simpson, the green frog begins calling in mid-spring in preparation for summer breeding. This frog friendly habitat attracts predators like great blue herons, several of which were spooked from their quiet refuges among the vegetation. Black ducks and other duck species also burst from their camouflaged locations; their quick take off is vastly different from the languishing liftoff of the heron.

After about a one kilometre paddle, the creek meets Wolfden Lake. Running north-south, this lake has two sections with a wetland in between. The southern section of the lake is the easiest to access and ends with another creek leading to String Lake, a long narrow lake that suits its name. The shorelines of both lakes are cloaked with mature forests and a few landing spots for breaks or a swim.

Returning to the winding creek between String and Wolfden Lake, bright, yellow water lily flowers stand tall and glow in this shallow, watery habitat. Another flower also caught my attention – small, white to pink flowers dangled from what looks like a common cultivated herb. Bog rosemary is flourishing in this wet, acidic environment. This wild rosemary is a small evergreen shrub with familiar long narrow leaves which are dark green above and white below with the leaf margins curled under.

Colourful moss mats poke out for the dense shoreline foliage where pitcher plants grow with their burgundy stalks and flowerheads hanging over the cupped leaves below. Summer paddlers can look forward to clusters of pickerel weed and their violet/purple flower ◘ their lance-shaped leaves are just emerging along the wetland edges.

This out and back route has many options. You could paddle up to 10 km if you travel the length of String Lake and explore both sections of Wolfden Lake. If you prefer a shorter paddle, there are lots of wetland areas to explore, all rich with biodiversity. I was out for 2.5 hours in a kayak and paddled both sections of Wolfden Lake but only poked out into String Lake and did not paddle its full length.

The day of my paddle, a steady wind made it a little harder to get around. However, I was grateful for the breeze and not limiting myself to just talking to birds and dragonflies, I also thanked the wind for its presence on this wonderful mid-spring day paddle on Pauper Creek.

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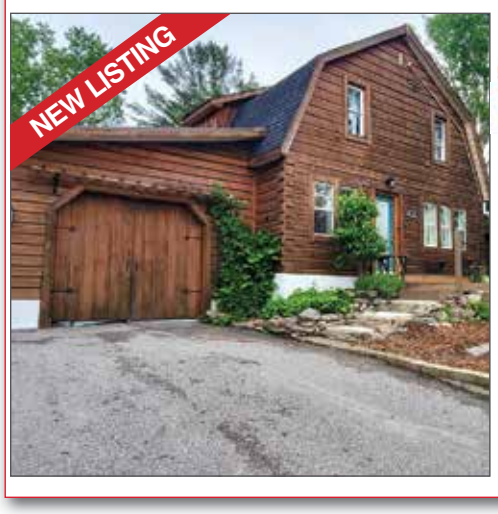

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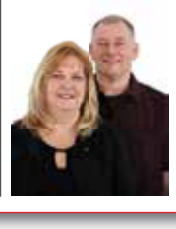

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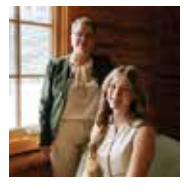

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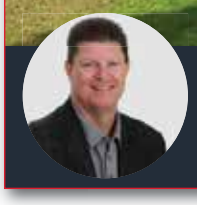

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Behind the Scenes with Highlands Summer Festival

SUE VORVIS
Special to County Life

/photos submitted

Our sets contribute to the magic of theatre, whether it's an other-worldly *Urinetown* or a down-home country cottage. Painting each set requires a small group of volunteers with a vast range of talents, from 'great with a roller' to professional artists. The work can be complex but there are a few simple rules:

The thirty foot rule

The set is intended to look its best at a distance of thirty feet or more. To the audience it should appear as a subtle plaster texture. Up close it's a visible tone-on-tone painted rag application. A fine mahogany wainscotting is actually a red/brown paint base overlayed with various colours of water-downed paint brushed together to imitate grain and highlights. We don't bother with subtle details because you'll never see them. And if one of our painters gets stuck on a detail, another will helpfully call out 'thirty feet'.

The paint rule

If it can't be done with paint, we simply don't do it. Fortunately, there is very little that can't be done with paint. In *Anne of Green Gables*, we painted rock foundations, flooring to give the look of worn painted pine plank, weather-aged cedar, rotting cedar shingles, plank siding, dragon-tooth cedar shingles, authentic custom stencil wallpaper, beadboard, hand painted signs, cast-iron, and a cherry tree, to name just a few.

The anything rule

The Anne set is almost all wood, but we will paint anything. Metal, plastic, stone, glass, vinyl siding, and fabric are often painted to create a specific vision. For *Shirley Valentine*, we spray-painted yards and yards of canvas drop cloths to imitate a Greek beach; we painted the stage to resemble a hardwood gym floor in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and the terrace fence in *Doris and Ivy in the Home* is topped with plastic garden borders from the dollar store and painted to look like an iron fence.

The mixing rule

You can achieve any colour in the universe by mixing paints left over from previous shows. There are dozens of cans of paint, in a multitude of colours, stored at our shop, all from previous year sets. When a small amount or special colour is required, we simply mix it up. There are over a dozen custom mixed colours and washes used in the *Anne* set. For example, we mixed or applied eight different colours to transform wood into aged cast iron, and we used more than a dozen colours to paint the cherry tree.

The 'not garbage' rule

You might throw it out, but we use it. A stiff, paint-filled brush is a tool. The stiffer the brush, the better the wood grain. We use stiff, paint-filled chip brushes (super cheap at $1.25) to create wood grain, old rags to create texture, wood blocks to create the illusion of peeling paint, scrunched up paper to create cracks in concrete, feathers to create veins in marble, and sea sponges for, well, everything. We use fine art brushes and good quality paint brushes, but it is the 'that's not garbage' items that create the magic.

The magic sponge rule

Sea sponges are always at hand. Always used damp, they combine paint to apply multiple colours at once to create bricks, marble, granite, concrete, soot, break-up, and so much more. Best of all, a sponge can be used to 'paint' over an 'oops' or simply wipe one out completely.

The flat first rule

Sets are typically designed flat, which makes them lighter, and easier to paint and move. Our stock flats are a 1x3 pine frame with a quarter ply skin. Each of the six flats in the kitchen for *Anne* were painted no fewer than ten times to create the effect of an old, but well-kept kitchen in a rural farmhouse in a small Maritime town.

- Primer
- Wallpaper base colour coat
- Beadboard base colour coat
- Wallpaper base colour coat
- Beadboard base colour coat
- Beadboard grain application
- Beadboard lines
- Wallpaper texture application
- Wallpaper stencil application
- Baseboard and chair rail, painted as grained wood, applied to the finished wall

The "it's the actor's fault" rule

If the audience is looking that closely at the set that they see our mistakes, the actors are not doing their job!

The 'A Little Help' Rule

Typically, our sets are created on-site by our own construction team. On occasion, however, the design calls for a piece that requires a little more finesse or precision that our team doesn't have the tools, time, or space to produce. Fortunately, we have some friends who have the skills and tools to take on these pieces (probably not the time, but they always come through). For *Anne of Green Gables*, we needed help with the cast-iron stove and the cherry tree.

Hans Andersen, his third season with HSF, crafted a cast iron stove to make Marilla's heart swell with pride. The dimensions are perfect, the doors open and close, and the details are authentic! Mary Hillaby and Gill Stephen transformed the raw wood into aged, well-used cast iron.

Due to space limitations on the stage, it was decided that the cherry tree as originally designed would have to be scaled back to a silhouette. Greg Shikazi, his second season with the HSF (cityscape for *Urinetown* in 2025), took one look at the sketch and knew exactly how to create some dimension without actually taking up stage space. He precision-cut puzzle pieces for the trunk, limbs, and canopy, layering them with spacers to create the illusion of depth. Jacquie Halupka, a local artist and part of our set decoration team, expertly captured the beauty of a cherry tree in spring.

Would you like to help make magic? Get in touch!

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Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Oriole by Randy Moratz.

Mother in waiting by Maggie Lawrence

Raccoon by Tammy Nash

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August 30th | 2:00-4:30pm
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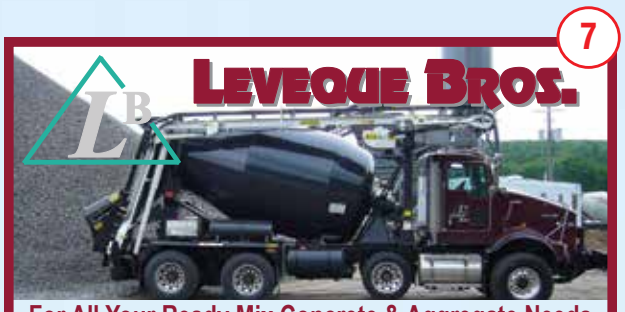

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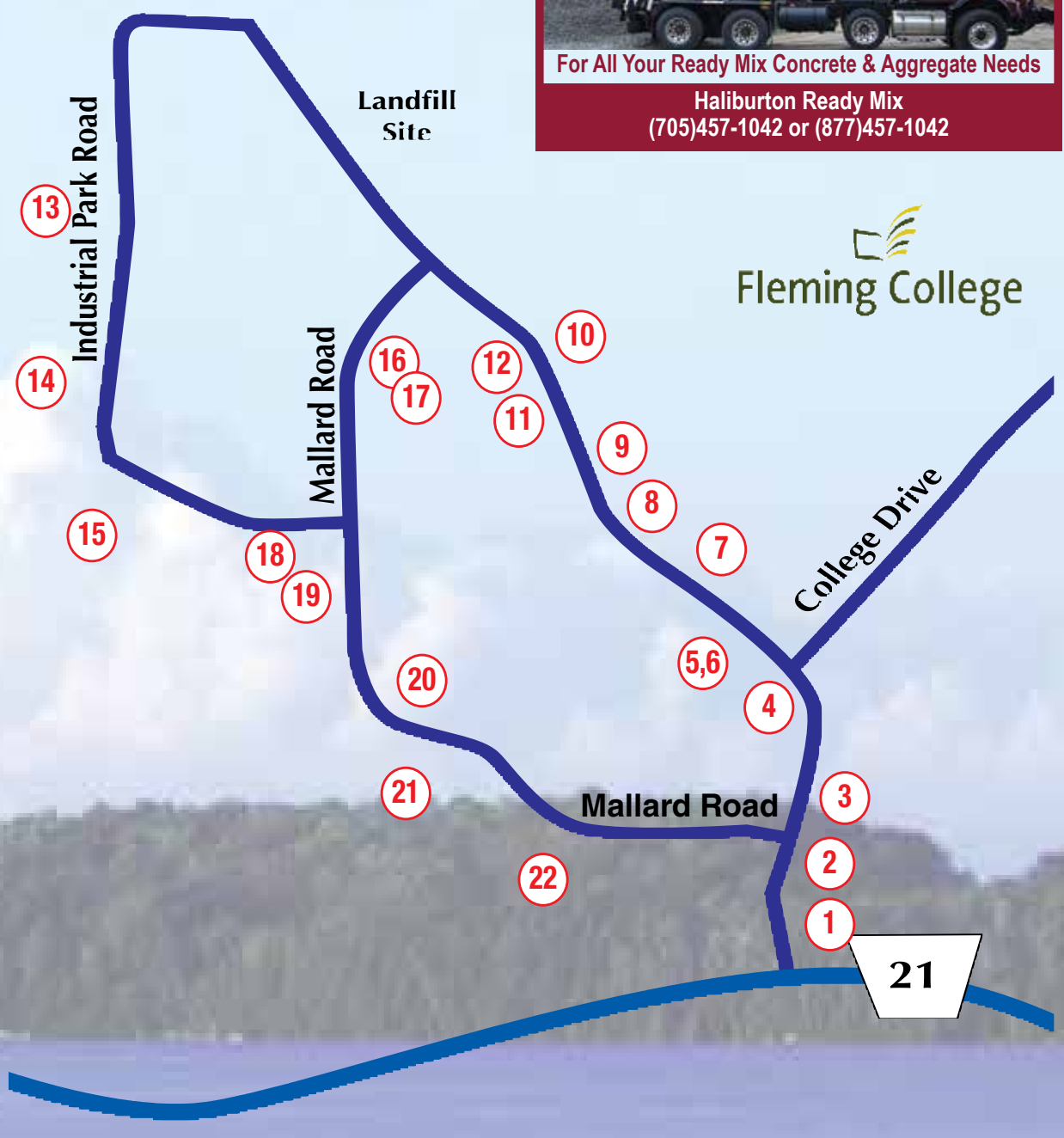

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Fox kit by Tammy Nash

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Haliburton Highlands Seniors Active Living Centre

Check out this month's SALC events and activities for residents aged 55+

Board game drop-in
various dates in July
Painting Class – July 2 & 16
Emergency Preparedness and Community Paramedicine – July 6
Guided Tour of the Haliburton Highlands Museum – July 8
Creative Writing with Susan E. Wadds – July 9
Seniors Stretch Class
July 14, 21, 28
Seniors Balance & Cardio Fitness Class – July 14, 21, 28
Exercise Classes with Georgia
July 14, 21, 28
Chair Yoga with Lorrie – July 15
SALC Webinar: Sacred Traditions, Artifacts of Church Life – July 15
Crafternoon – July 15
Exercise with Georgia – July 15 & 29
Seniors Stretch Class
July 16, 23, 30
Poetry with Patricia – July 16
Meet the Author: Fay Martin
July 17
Returning to the Earth: Understanding Green Burial
July 17 & 24
Fitness Success Workshop – July 18
SALC Webinar: Lakelands Public Health Unit – July 20
Demystify AI 2: Issues and Challenges – July 22 & 30

For full details, visit HaliburtonCounty.ca/SALC or pick up a calendar at a municipal office, library or Legion near you!

Haliburton County Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC)
Through this program, older adults (55+) and seniors (65+) are invited to get active, make friends, and be well!

The SALC Program is designed to provide social, cultural, learning, and recreational opportunities for seniors to stay fit, healthy and socially connected in their communities.

SALC Programming is available in Haliburton County through collaboration between the County of Haliburton and local municipalities, the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, and multiple partners.

Funding for this program has been provided by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

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County sorts through who does what

The Haliburton County "Who does What" Committee submitted its preliminary recommendations to county council at the June 18 meeting. The document outlines which level of government should shoulder the responsibilities in such areas as emergency services, parks and recreation, planning, social services, roads, tax collection and waste management.

The following are highlights from the recommendations:

The county would assume responsibility in such areas as ambulance services, policing, library services, economic development, homes for the aged, social services and family benefits administration and septic inspections.

Lower tier governments would be responsible for by-law enforcement, non-profit housing, sidewalks, street lighting, sewer systems, collection of taxes, transit, waste management, water systems and airports, among others.

A number of areas have been identified where the two levels of government would share responsibility. For example, in the case of fire departments, the county would be in charge of communications and services, while the municipalities would be responsible for suppression/rescue, fire prevention programs and medical. Another area where both levels would divide responsibilities is in planning. The county would be accountable for the official plan, subdivision approvals and consents, while the lower tier would approve minor variances, conduct pit and quarry reviews, oversee site plan controls and enforce zoning by-laws.

Parks and recreation would see most of the responsibility shouldered by the municipalities. Such things as arenas/community centres, ball parks and fields, boat launches, playgrounds, trailer parks and community parks would fall under the jurisdiction of the lower tier governments. The county would be responsible only for corridor parks.

The county would continue to assume control of county roads, including those which have recently been transferred

(more on page 2)

It was a night of celebration at Archie Stouffer Elementary School as students from the grade eight class received their graduation certificates and special awards. Emily Brandon was recognized for a number of achievements and is seen her receiving the Haliburton County Women's Teachers Association award for leadership from teacher Chris Lynd. For more details and photos, please turn to page 25 and 28.

Farmhouse demolition placed 'on hold' while council considers options

The Stevenson Farm has been given a stay of execution, for the time being. The Haliburton County Board of Education Management Committee agreed last Tuesday to defer any decision on the removal of the house until its September meeting.

Carolyn Coburn, representing the Minden County Town Museum, told the group that a professor from Trent University has indicated the farm could be of value to his project in the area.

Professor John Wadland, the lead professor in the Bioregionalism Project, has expressed a strong interest in the Stevenson Farm. He has suggested the building might be used as a 'base camp' from which the students could carry out research on the Haliburton County area.

The Stevenson farmhouse is on property owned by the Haliburton County Board of Education. The building is located immediately behind Archie Stouffer School on the edge of the hill overlooking the school's playground.

Anson, Hindon and Minden Reeve Jeanne Anthon and Deputy Reeve Jerry Rome were also at the meeting. The council representatives told the committee they are reluctant to accept responsibility for the farm. The council is willing however, to enter into a partnership of some description with Trent University if the school is interested in developing the proposal.

Council felt that more time was needed in order to consider the various options. The representatives affirmed they do not want to compete with Sir Sanford Fleming College.

One option presented would be to lease the house for a year with the option to buy it. This is council's preferred direction at this point, however it is still willing to consider other alternatives.

Unfortunately council had little time to prepare a proper presentation for the board's committee meeting. At the time of the meeting, representatives from council were not empowered to enter into any formal arrangement but were simply seeking additional time to work out the details of an agreement.

The group was asking that the board not proceed with the demolition of the farmhouse to give the council and the Museum time to determine their best options.

In addition to the potential use by the Bioregionalism course, the Minden Museum Committee has also expressed an interest in the structure.

Concerns were raised about possible vandalism that might take place while decisions were being made and who would take on the expenses incurred by the buildings, for example electricity and insurance fees.

The Management Committee recommended that any decision concerning the disposition of the Stevenson Farm be

(more on page 4)

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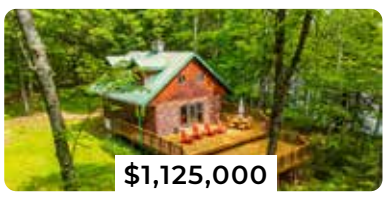
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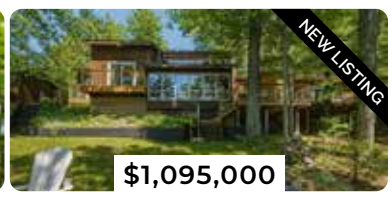

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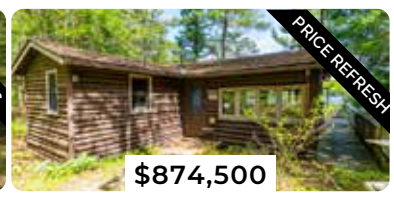

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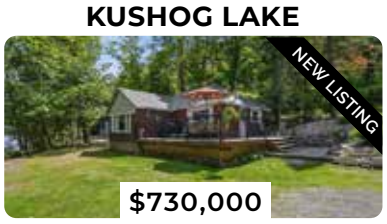

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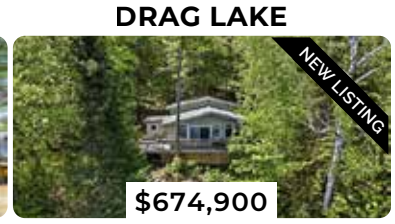
LONG LAKE

$699,900
BED 6 | BATH 1+1 | MLS #X13034386

KENNISIS RIVER

$695,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13135162

DRAG LAKE


$674,900
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS X13421336

REYNOLDS ROAD

$650,000
BED 3 | BATH 2+1 | MLS #X13185368

HALIBURTON VILLAGE

$639,000
BED 2+1 | BATH 3 | MLS #X13454954

SOUTH PORTAGE LAKE

$635,000
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13420872

KOSHLONG LAKE RD

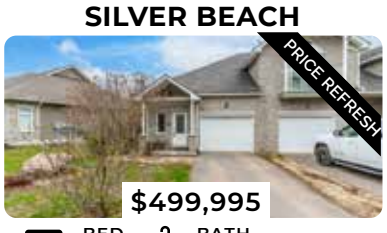
$579,000
3.48 ACRES | MLS #X13444274

WEST SETTLEMENT RD

$555,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13163216

ALLEN LAKE

$519,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13215436

SILVER BEACH


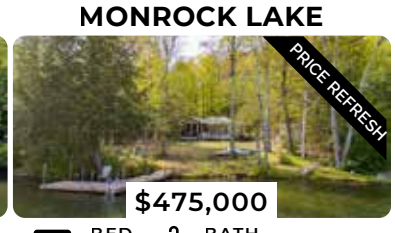
$499,995
BED 2 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13113762

KUSHOG LAKE, HWY 35

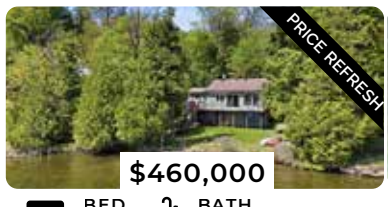
$499,900
BED 3 | BATH 2 | MLS #X12604142

LITTLE STRAGGLE LAKE

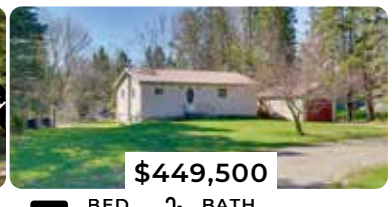
$495,000
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13229592

MONROCK LAKE


$475,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13177210

LITTLE STRAGGLE LAKE


$460,000
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13222622

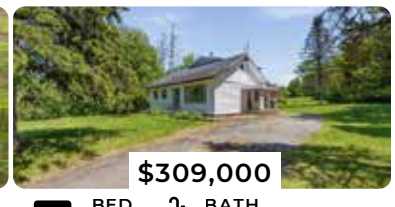
GULL RIVER

$449,500
BED 2+1 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13147762

COUNTY ROAD 503

$430,000
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13111224

GLAMOR LAKE ROAD

$398,500
BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13122288

LOOP ROAD

$309,000
BED 4 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13248190

VACANT LAND FOR SALE

SOLD
TOM BOLTON RD
$225,000
6.48 Acres | MLS #X13111900

SOLD
LOCHLIN RD
$224,500
45.95 Acres | MLS #X13149738

Haliburton
BOUGHNER RD
$199,900
5.31 Acres | MLS #X13061996

Algonquin Highlands
BRADY LAKE RD
$199,900
0.48 Acres | MLS #X13129990

Eagle Lake
STILLS RD
$145,000
1.21 Acres | MLS #X13118448

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